

Indians at that point, but agreed with his friends in the Indian community that the DNC should have a presence at an important upcoming gathering of tribal leaders – the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) convention in August in Milwaukee – which could introduce the DNC to a number of fund-raising prospects.⁵³⁴ By early August, Crain, Berger and Berger’s Indian advisors were conferring at length about strategies for a DNC presence at the Milwaukee convention. Crain proposed that Fowler or DeAtley address the group, and the DNC would then follow-up with a briefing-type meeting in Washington where a small group of key Indian leaders could meet with political and policy leaders. That group would then become the host committee for a major Indian fund-raiser.

Over the next month, Crain pursued this strategy, but it collided with fall-out from the Hudson controversy. As noted above, by late July, Berger had been retained by Havenick to pursue relief from the Hudson denial for Havenick and his Indian partners. *See* Section II.I.1., *supra*. As a result, Berger was focused on the NIGA convention not merely because of DNC fund-raising prospects, but also because he saw it as an opportunity for him or another Havenick representative to attempt to broker a Hudson compromise with the Minnesota and Wisconsin opponent tribes, thus promoting reconsideration of the application by Interior. By Aug. 16, Berger had gotten confirmation that the “Minnesota Sioux” would be at the NIGA convention,⁵³⁵ and he then advised Havenick of this potential strategy.

⁵³⁴Though likely unknown to Crain and Berger at the time, in early June, NIGA had invited Fowler (as well as his Republican National Committee counterpart) to the August convention.

⁵³⁵Phone Message Slip from Guy Fringer to Mitchell Berger, Aug. 15, 1995. Furthermore, the "Minneapolis Area Nations" were identified as co-sponsors of the convention. NIGA 1995 Annual Convention and Trade Show, Milwaukee, WI, Promotional Pamphlet.